GUGGENHEIM · PACHECO · TAIBO · MARTIN
SQUADRON SINISTER
#1
SQUADRON SINISTER
HYPERION
NIGHTHAWK
DR. SPECTRUM
WHIZZER
WARRIOR WOMAN
SQUADRON SUPREME
HYPERION
NIGHTHAWK
DR. SPECTRUM
BLUR
ZARDA
SECRET WARS
MARVEL

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

•

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

•

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**!

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A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

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EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

SQUADRON SINISTER

•NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES•

WRITER: MARC GUGGENHEIM

PENCILER: CARLOS PACHECO

INKER: MARIANO TAIBO

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ARTISTS: CARLOS PACHECO, MARIANO TAIBO & FRANK MARTIN

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: JIM CHEUNG & MATT MILLA; SKOTTIE YOUNG; ANNIE WU; CARLOS PACHECO; GREG SMALLWOOD

ASSISTANT EDITORS: JON MOISAN and ALANNA SMITH

EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with WIL MOSS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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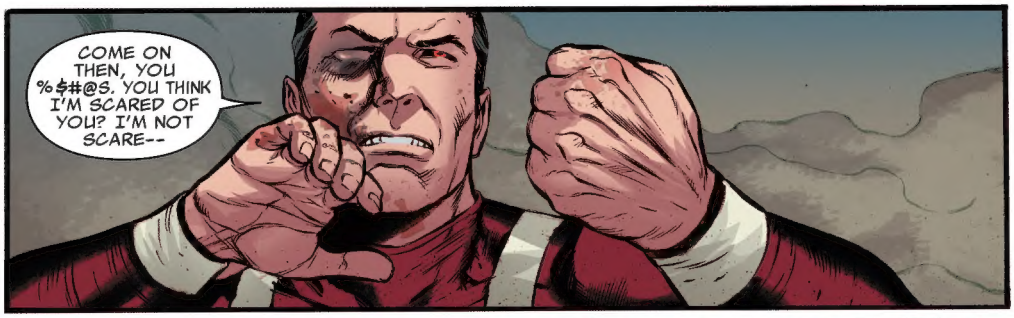
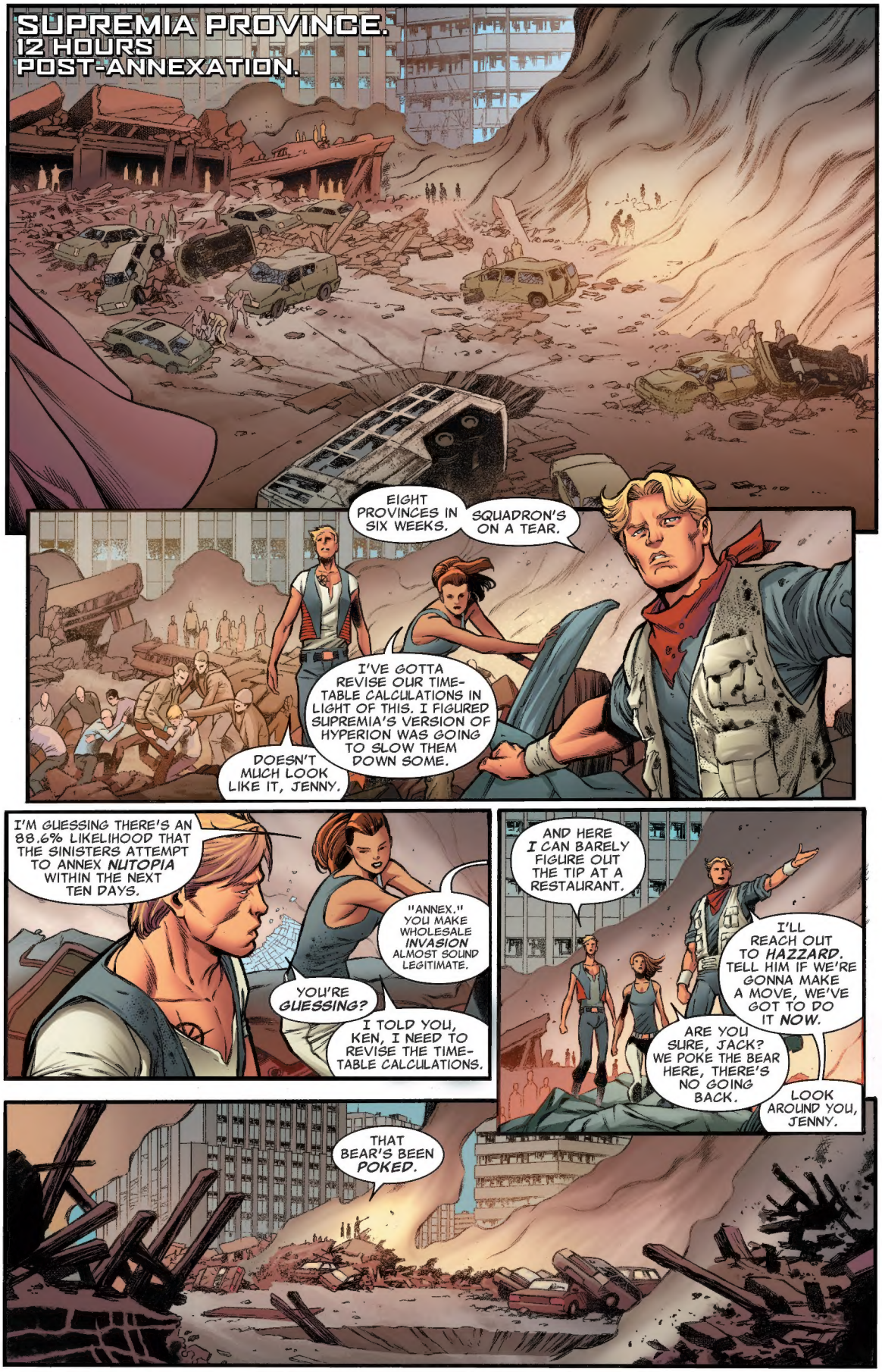

COME ON THEN, YOU %$#@S. YOU THINK I'M SCARED OF YOU? I'M NOT SCARE--

SUPREMIA PROVINCE.
NEAR UTOPOLIS.
HOLY $#%^...
SHUT UP, STEWART...
EVERYONE FORM UP ON ME.
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

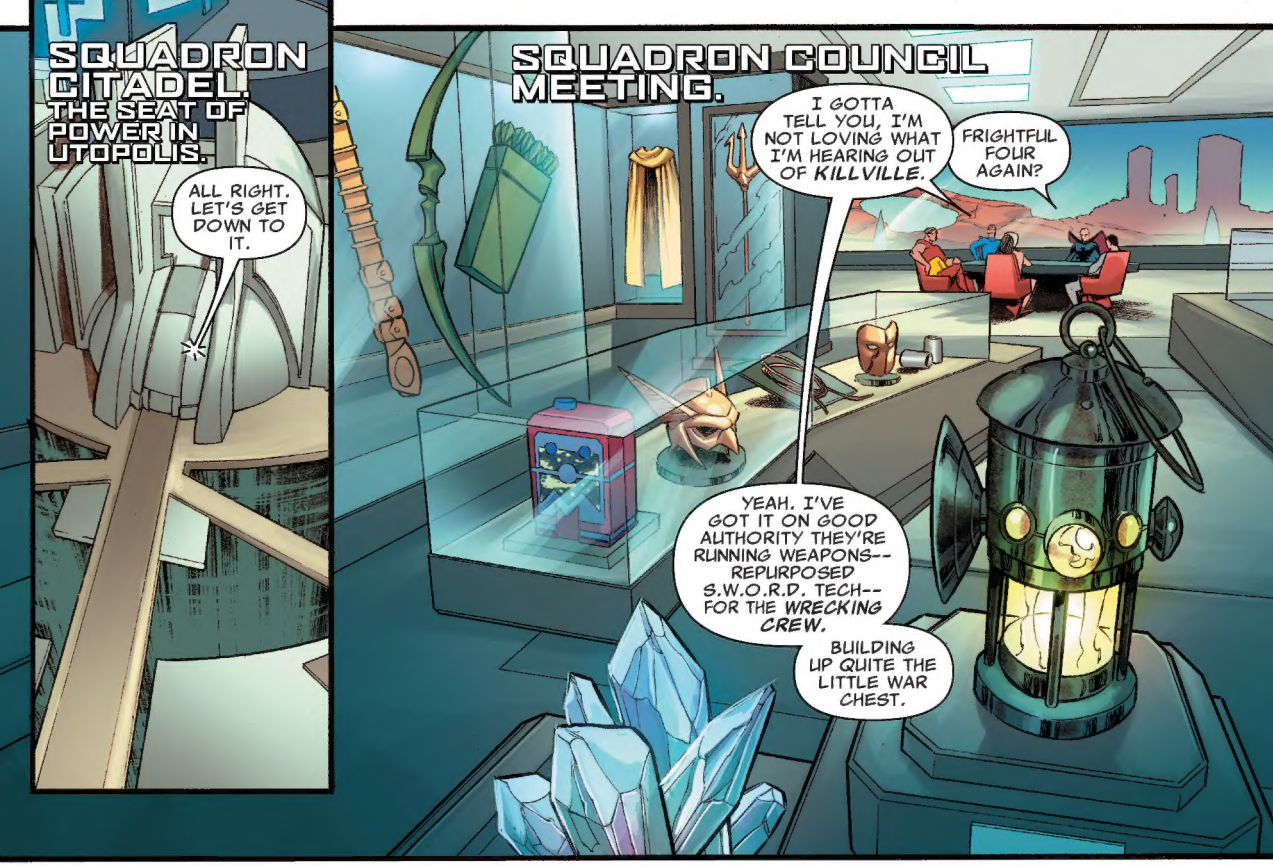
WE CAN TAKE THESE $#%&S...
DOCTOR SPECTRUM.
POWER PRISM WIELDER.
WARRIOR WOMAN.
SUPER-AMAZONIAN.
HYPERION.
MAN OF TOMORROW.
NIGHTHAWK.
DARK KNIGHT.
WHIZZER.
THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.
SO THAT'S A "NO" ON THE WHOLE SURRENDER THING, I'M GUESSING.

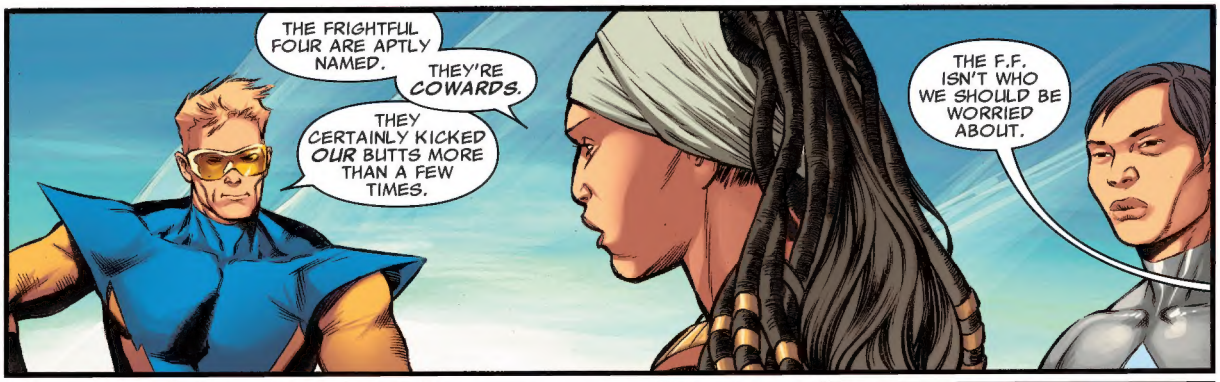
THEN FINISH 'EM.
ANNEXATION IN PROGRESS.
BACK OFF! THIS IS A SENTIENT EXTRATERRESTRIAL CRYSTAL. I'M LIKE A GOD, YOU $#%&.
AND YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
I KILLED YOU SOMETIME BETWEEN "EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL" AND "CRYSTAL."
REMEMBER, WE NEED ONE OF THEM ALIVE TO ACT AS A REGENT FOR THIS DUMP ONCE WE TAKE IT OVER.

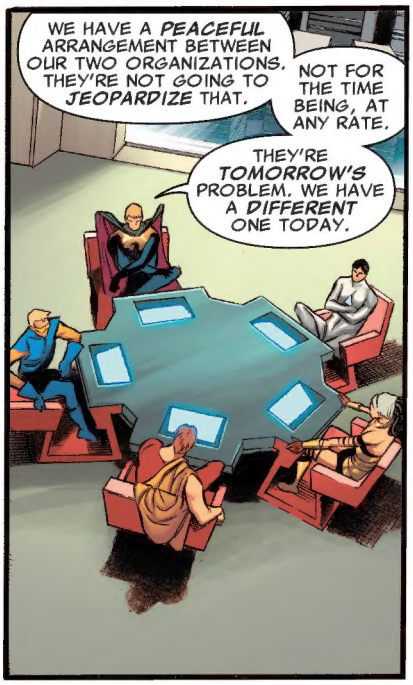
I HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND.
UNH!
OF COURSE HE'D PICK HIS COUNTER-PART.
IT'S SENSIBLE.
YOU WANT TO TAKE OVER NEIGHBORING TERRITORIES, HYPERION, FINE. BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO CONTROL THE DOMAINS WE ANNEX.
WE NEED A REGENT-- SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE-- AND I FOR ONE WOULD PREFER IT BE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE.
IT IS SUCH A TURN-ON WHEN YOU TALK TACTICS.
IF YOU EXPECT ME TO BEG, PREPARE TO BE DISAPPOINTED. I'D RATHER DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS BEFORE EVER BENDING A KNEE TO--
AAAH!
YEAH, WHATEVER.
ARE WE DONE HERE?
LOOKS LIKE.


SUPREMIA PROVINCE.
12 HOURS
POST-ANNEXATION.
EIGHT PROVINCES IN SIX WEEKS.
SQUADRON'S ON A TEAR.
I'VE GOTTA REVISE OUR TIME-TABLE CALCULATIONS IN LIGHT OF THIS. I FIGURED SUPREMIA'S VERSION OF HYPERION WAS GOING TO SLOW THEM DOWN SOME.
DOESN'T MUCH LOOK LIKE IT, JENNY.
I'M GUESSING THERE'S AN 88.6% LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SINISTERS ATTEMPT TO ANNEX NUTOPIA WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS.
"ANNEX." YOU MAKE WHOLESALE INVASION ALMOST SOUND LEGITIMATE.
YOU'RE GUESSING?
I TOLD YOU, KEN, I NEED TO REVISE THE TIME-TABLE CALCULATIONS.
AND HERE I CAN BARELY FIGURE OUT THE TIP AT A RESTAURANT.
I'LL REACH OUT TO HAZZARD. TELL HIM IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE A MOVE, WE'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW.
ARE YOU SURE, JACK? WE POKE THE BEAR HERE, THERE'S NO GOING BACK.
LOOK AROUND YOU, JENNY.
THAT BEAR'S BEEN POKED.

UTOPOLIS.
DOMAIN OF KING HYPERION.
THANK DOOM. THERE'S NO CONSTABLE IN SIGHT...
YOUR GRACE, THIS WRETCH STOLE A WEEK'S WORTH OF RATIONS FROM THE STORAGE DEPOT.
WELL DONE, THEN.
SECURITY AT THE STORAGE DEPOT IS LACKING, CLEARLY, AND YOU EXPLOITED THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE. CONGRATULATIONS.
MY LIEGE--?
NOTHING IS GIVEN IN THIS LIFE. IT MUST BE TAKEN. WEAKNESS IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
UH... THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE.
IS THIS TRUE?
YOUR GRACE--
BEFORE YOU ANSWER, TRY TO REMEMBER I CAN HEAR YOUR HEART BEATING. I'LL KNOW IF YOU'RE LYING.
...
IT'S TRUE.
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S KING HYPERION!
YOUR GRACE!
SIR, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
BUT THEN YOU GOT YOURSELF CAUGHT AND CAPTURED.
AAHHHHH!
REMEMBER, CITIZENS...
"WEAKNESS IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE."


SQUADRON CITADEL.
THE SEAT OF POWER IN UTOPOLIS.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET DOWN TO IT.
SQUADRON COUNCIL MEETING.
I GOTTA TELL YOU, I'M NOT LOVING WHAT I'M HEARING OUT OF KILLVILLE.
FRIGHTFUL FOUR AGAIN?
YEAH. I'VE GOT IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THEY'RE RUNNING WEAPONS-- REPURPOSED S.W.O.R.D. TECH-- FOR THE WRECKING CREW.
BUILDING UP QUITE THE LITTLE WAR CHEST.


THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR ARE APTLY NAMED.
THEY'RE COWARDS.
THEY CERTAINLY KICKED OUR BUTTS MORE THAN A FEW TIMES.
THE F.F. ISN'T WHO WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.


WE HAVE A PEACEFUL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO JEOPARDIZE THAT.
NOT FOR THE TIME BEING, AT ANY RATE.
THEY'RE TOMORROW'S PROBLEM. WE HAVE A DIFFERENT ONE TODAY.

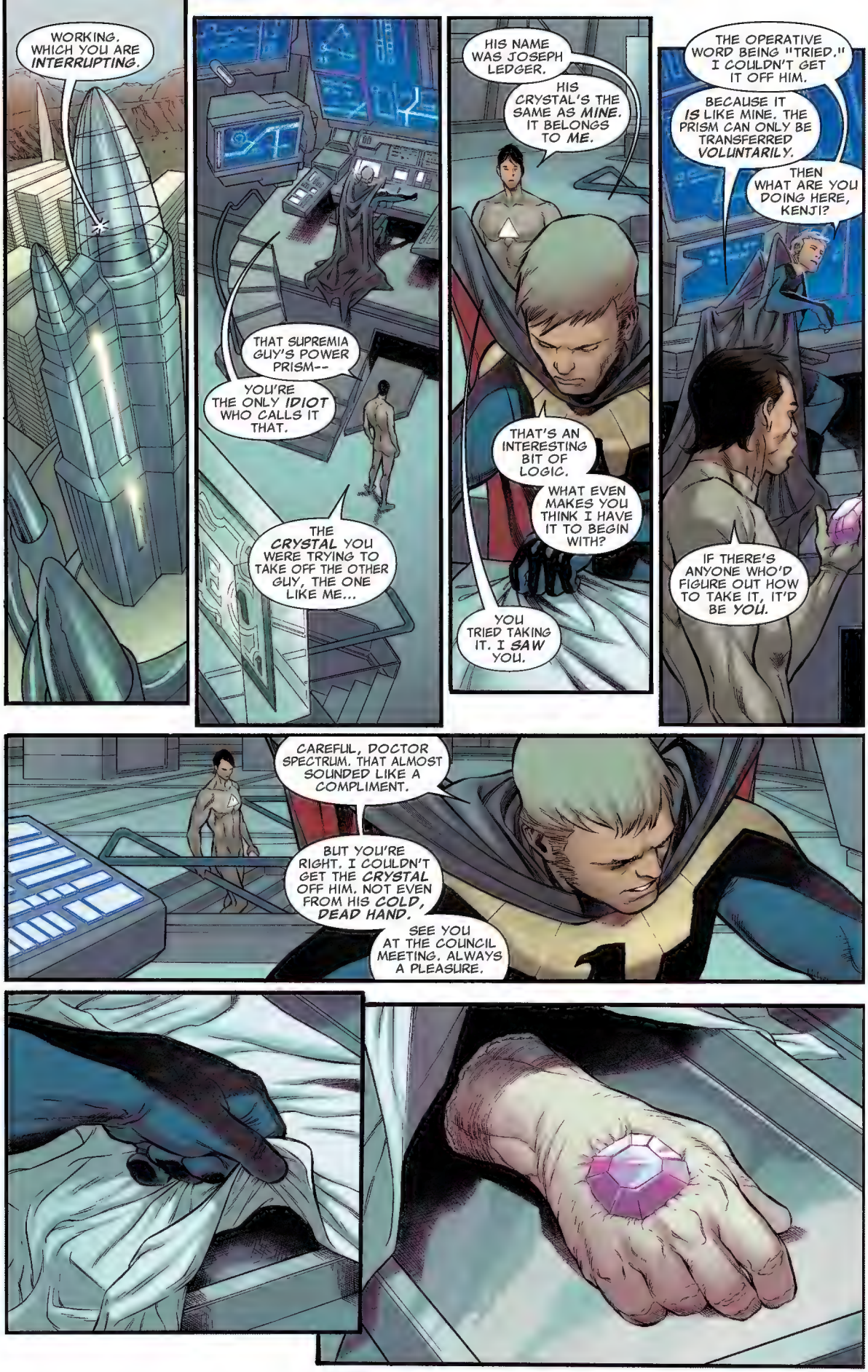
SHADOW PROVINCE. IT'S A LITTLE TERRITORY OUTSIDE THE REGENCY.
I'VE HEARD OF IT. THEY'VE GOT SOME HEAVY HITTERS THERE, BUT WE CAN TAKE 'EM.
ANOTHER ANNEXATION?

WHAT'S THE POINT, RICHMOND?
HOW MANY TERRITORIES AND PROVINCES AND REGIONS HAVE WE ANNEXED ALREADY? BETTER QUESTION, HOW MANY MORE DO WE NEED?

IT'S MONEY AND SECURITY. THE MORE LAND WE CONTROL, THE LESS CAUSE OUR ENEMIES'LL--
I'M NOT TALKING ANNEXATION.
THERE'S A MAN IN THE SHADOW PROVINCE. CALLS HIMSELF "DOCTOR ZERO."
HE'S SMART. AND HE'S FORMIDABLE. AND I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY HE'S WORKING ON AN ARGONITE WEAPON.
WHAT "GOOD AUTHORITY"?
THE RELIABLE KIND.
MEANING YOU TORTURED SOME POOR BASTARD.
MY INTEL IS THAT ZERO DEVELOPED THE WEAPON TO TAKE OUT OTHERS OF HIS KIND, A RACE OF PEOPLE CALLED "SHADOW DWELLERS."
THE PROBLEM IS THAT ARGONITE'S THE ONLY SUBSTANCE I KNOW OF THAT CAN HARM HYPERION.
WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING?
IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE.
WE GO TO SHADOW AND WE TAKE THE THING.
BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
PLEASE CONTINUE.
DO NOT LET ME INTERRUPT.
IRON THOR.
MEMBER OF THE THORS, ENFORCERS OF DOOM'S JUSTICE.

I WASN'T AWARE WE WERE SCHEDULED FOR A VISIT FROM THE LAW...
JUSTICE HEWS TO NO SCHEDULE, KING HYPERION.
COME. WALK WITH ME.
"I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THEE."
POETRY ABOUT "JUSTICE" ASIDE, I WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED THE RESPECT OF BEING INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
THAT WAS NOT UP TO ME. I DO, AS WE ALL MUST, WHAT OUR LORD DOOM COMMANDS.
AND WHY DID HE "COMMAND" THIS INSPECTION? DO I HAVE SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT?
THINE... AGGRESSIONS AGAINST THY NEIGHBORS HAVE GROWN OF LATE.
SOME OF OUR "NEIGHBORS" ARE AGGRESSIVE THEMSELVES.
THE ANNEXATIONS OFFER MY PEOPLE A MEASURE OF SECURITY.
THEN THOU NEEDEST NOT BE TROUBLED BY MY PRESENCE HERE.

DO NOT CONCERN THYSELF WITH ME.
I CAN SHOW MYSELF AROUND.
WHAT'D HAMMER-HEAD WANT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, WHIZZER.
TOO LATE. THOSE THORS FREAK THE CRAP OUTTA ME.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT ZERO AND THE SHADOW PROVINCE? PUT IT ON HOLD?
...
NO. WE GO AS PLANNED.
WHAT ABOUT THE THOR?
LET ME WORRY ABOUT HIM.
"WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, NIGHTHAWK?"


WORKING. WHICH YOU ARE INTERRUPTING.
THAT SUPREMIA GUY'S POWER PRISM--
YOU'RE THE ONLY IDIOT WHO CALLS IT THAT.
THE CRYSTAL YOU WERE TRYING TO TAKE OFF THE OTHER GUY, THE ONE LIKE ME...
HIS NAME WAS JOSEPH LEDGER.
HIS CRYSTAL'S THE SAME AS MINE. IT BELONGS TO ME.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING BIT OF LOGIC.
WHAT EVEN MAKES YOU THINK I HAVE IT TO BEGIN WITH?
YOU TRIED TAKING IT. I SAW YOU.
THE OPERATIVE WORD BEING "TRIED." I COULDN'T GET IT OFF HIM.
BECAUSE IT IS LIKE MINE. THE PRISM CAN ONLY BE TRANSFERRED VOLUNTARILY.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KENJI?
IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO'D FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE IT, IT'D BE YOU.
CAREFUL, DOCTOR SPECTRUM. THAT ALMOST SOUNDED LIKE A COMPLIMENT.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I COULDN'T GET THE CRYSTAL OFF HIM. NOT EVEN FROM HIS COLD, DEAD HAND.
SEE YOU AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. ALWAYS A PLEASURE.

SQUADRON CITADEL.
IRON THOR ARRIVAL.
PLUS 8 HOURS.
MY GOD...
I KNOW.
NO...
LOOK.

WE'RE DEAD.
I MEAN, I KNOW HE'S DEAD. BUT DOOM FINDS THIS OUT AND WE'RE DEAD. HE'S GONNA SEND THE ENTIRE THOR CORPS TO WASTE US, AND THAT'S IF HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD.
NOT IF WE DELIVER WHOEVER DID THIS, RICHMOND...
I'LL AUTOPSY THE BODY, COMMENCE A FULL INVESTIGATION.
DO IT QUICK, AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THE BODY, MAKE SURE IT ENDS UP WHERE NO ONE CAN FIND IT.
WE HAVE A DAY, MAYBE TWO, BEFORE THIS GUY'S BUDDIES START TO NOTICE HE'S MISSING.
I WANT THAT ARGONITE WEAPON BEFORE WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE INEVITABLE $#@% STORM.
I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE HOLD OFF--
DO US ALL A FAVOR, KENJI, AND DON'T THINK.
WHEN WE FIND OUT WHO DID THIS, IT'S GONNA TAKE ALL MY SELF-CONTROL NOT TO KILL THE BASTARD MYSELF...
WE REALLY ARE SO DEAD.

SHADOW PROVINCE.
TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE SHADOW DWELLERS.
IN POSITION.
THE FACILITY IS UNDER HEAVY GUARD.
"I ESTIMATE EIGHT KNIGHTS OF ST. GEORGE ON THE GROUNDS. THREE MORE ON THE BATTLEMENTS."
TAKEN CARE OF.
YOU WANT I SHOULD GET THE ARGONITE THINGY, TOO?
DON'T GET COCKY, SANDERS.
BESIDES...

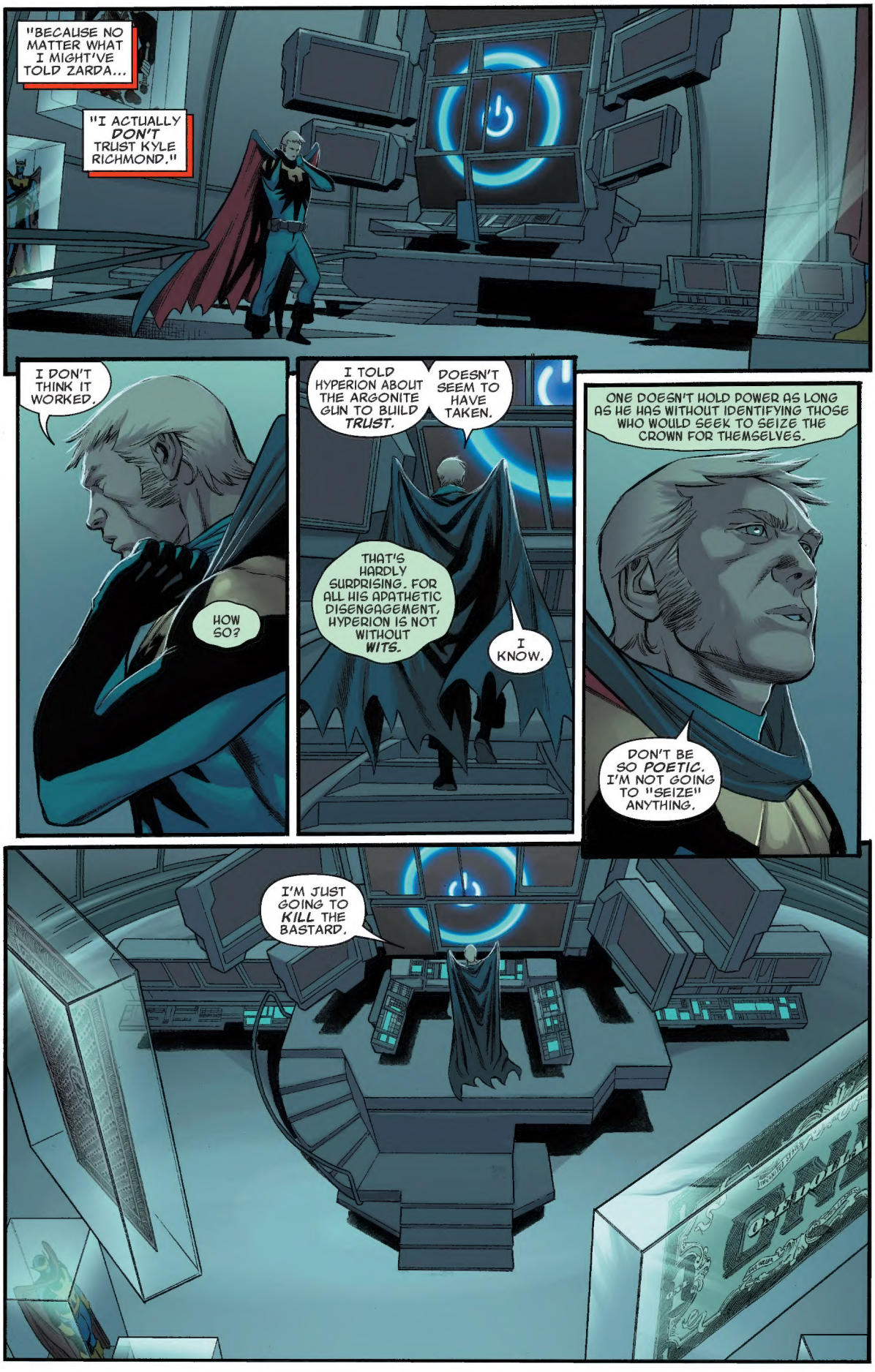
"NIGHTHAWK'S ON IT."
ARE WE OFF THE GENERAL COMMS?
YEAH. THERE A PROBLEM?
ABOUT NIGHTHAWK...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT A MISTAKE TO LET HIM INFILTRATE ALONE?
"I WOULDN'T WORRY, ZARDA.

"NIGHTHAWK CAN MORE THAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF."
"HIS SURVIVAL IS NOT MY CONCERN.
"I'M SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE WISEST COURSE...
"...TO LEAVE KYLE RICHMOND ALONE WITH A WEAPON THAT CAN KILL YOU."
DON'T WORRY, ZARDA.
I KNOW RICHMOND. I MAY NOT ALWAYS TRUST HIM, BUT I KNOW THE MAN...
HE CAN BE RELIED ON.
ZARDA...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL YOU BACK.
DOCTOR ZERO, I PRESUME?

INTERESTING.
I'D THOUGHT YOUR GANG OF FECKLESS THUGS PREFERRED BRAZEN, DAYLIGHT ATTACKS.
NOT SKULKING AROUND LIKE COWARDS.
OH, CRAP...
THAT JEWEL OF YOURS MAKES YOU ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN ON THE PLANET, SPECTRUM.
YOUR CONSTANT MEWLING MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE AN INFANT.
I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE A BARON.
I'M GOING TO REND THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES FOR THIS INSOLENCE.
YOU'RE STRONG, ZERO.
STRONGER THAN ANY FOE I'VE FACED IN A WHILE.
YOU AND YOUR SHADOW DWELLERS COULD HAVE BEEN GODS, BUT YOU SQUANDERED YOUR CHANCE.
PATHETIC.

I HAVE THE WEAPON. YOU CAN ALL EXFIL.
NOW HE TELLS US.
SORRY I'M LATE.
STOPPED BY MUTOPIA FOR SOME DINNER.
THEY'VE GOT A RESTAURANT THERE WITH A PRETTY DECENT WINE LIST.
ENOUGH, SANDERS.
"DOCTOR ZERO."
APPROPRIATE NAME.
BEGIN EVAC.
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME WITH THESE LOSERS.

"I WANT TO GO HOME."
ZARDA HAD HER DOUBTS THAT YOU'D TURN THIS OVER TO ME.
ZARDA DOESN'T TRUST MEN.
THIS IS TRUE.
THAT SAID, YOU SHOULD REMIND HER THAT IF MY INTENTION WAS TO STEAL THE WEAPON TO USE AGAINST YOU, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU BELIEVE HIM?
HARDLY EVER.
DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. I'VE GOT THE WEAPON NOW, HE DOESN'T.
STILL... KEEP A CLOSER EYE THAN USUAL ON HIM.


"BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT'VE TOLD ZARDA...
"I ACTUALLY *DON'T* TRUST KYLE RICHMOND."
I DON'T THINK IT WORKED.
HOW SO?
I TOLD HYPERION ABOUT THE ARGONITE GUN TO BUILD *TRUST*.
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN.
THAT'S HARDLY SURPRISING. FOR ALL HIS APATHETIC DISENGAGEMENT, HYPERION IS NOT WITHOUT *WITS*.
I KNOW.
ONE DOESN'T HOLD POWER AS LONG AS HE HAS WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO SEIZE THE CROWN FOR THEMSELVES.
DON'T BE SO *POETIC*. I'M NOT GOING TO "SEIZE" ANYTHING.
I'M JUST GOING TO *KILL* THE BASTARD.

UTOPOLIS.
IRON THOR
DEATH PLUS
24 HOURS.
PRETTY DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
LADY LIKE YOU IN A NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THIS? ALL ALONE?
DANGEROUS FOR ANYONE WHO'D CHALLENGE ME...
...MR. HAZZARD.
MY FRIENDS CALL ME MARK.
OR THEY WOULD, IF I HAD FRIENDS.
MAGNICONTE SENT YOU?
HE'S WORRIED. HE HASN'T HEARD MUCH SINCE YOUR INFIL.
AND I TOLD HIM HE WOULDN'T.
Planned Syria
planning trip,
wanted to kill
HYPERION-
I CAN'T RISK HYPERION FINDING OUT I'M WORKING WITH YOU NUTOPIANS.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SQUADRON SINISTER

NEXT ISSUE.

Tyrant Lizard Kings
EMPIRE